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Title: Need to release Rs. 95 crores to the Union Territory of Puducherry to find a permanent solution to check recurring natural disasters in Yanam region-laid.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (PONDICHERRY): Yanam Region, one of the regions of the Union Territory of Puducherry situated at a distance of 890 Km. away from Puducherry, is constantly shattered by natural disasters. Every time, the East Godawari District of Andhra Pradesh is hit by natural calamity, Yanam is also utterly affected. With great relief and rehabilitation work every year, we have to nurse this region back to normalcy. The temporary measures taken are washed away by the next year's disaster. Consequently, the people of the region have to live perpetually in fear and shock. In August 2006, the region was again ravaged by the severe rains in the upper catchment area of Godavari River. The Central team which assessed the damaged concurred with our view that something permanent has to be done to avert the fury of constant natural disasters. Unless we take preventive measures of permanent nature to face the onslaught of floods, cyclones and other natural hazards, we have to be spending every year substantial amount of public resources for the relief and rehabilitation of the people marooned in Yanam. It is in this context that the Government of Puducherry has prepared a special package for permanent improvement of Yanam Region which may be approved by the Government of India keeping the long term interest of Yanam people. This is a justifiable proposal in view of its wholesome impact on the region and its people. Realizing that prevention is better then cure, the Government should release Rs. 95 crores as requested by the Government of Puducherry so that people can live peacefully irrespective of any natural disaster.